



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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October 12, 2005

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Keith Higman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING REVISION TO CHAPTER 246-366 WAC,
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Background and Summary

School indoor air and drinking water quality have been recurring topics during Board meetings over the past years. School districts have had mixed success at responding to such public concerns. The Board has statutory authority under RCW 43.20.050(2)(c) to “adopt rules controlling public health related to environmental conditions including but not limited to heating, lighting, ventilation, sanitary facilities, cleanliness, and space in all types of public facilities including...schools.” The Board sets minimal environmental health standards for schools in Chapter 246-366 WAC. The Board last adopted major revisions to the rule in 1971.

At its July 2003 meeting, the Board asked the Department of Health (DOH) to begin revising the school environmental health rules by July 2004. Between November 2004 and July 2005, DOH convened workgroups to develop recommendations for inclusion in the rule. Technical area workgroups met first and developed 101 proposals for consideration. Then a group of stakeholders, the School Rule Development Committee (SRDC), evaluated those proposals. The SRDC was made up of representatives from local health jurisdictions, school boards, school districts, school administrators, school maintenance personnel, private schools, teachers, parents, school nurses, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, school architects, and higher education. An attempt was made to include student representatives; however, the time commitment was not compatible with student schedules.

Maryanne Guichard, Director of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, is here to explain the workgroup process, major topics they considered, and the next steps that DOH is taking. Behind Tab 5 in your packets, you will find a handout of Ms. Guichard’s presentation today, the results of an evaluation of the process submitted by participants, and a list of SRDC members. Please note that Karen VanDusen, now on this Board, served on the SRDC.

Recommended Board Action

No action recommended at this time.